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11 SEP 1988

Subject: New Ideas for the Military Man in Space (MMIS) Program

- XPS is preparing a briefing for you that describes several changes we would like to make to the MMIS program. This briefing is still in coordination, but we intend to make it available to you in the next few weeks. We felt you would appreciate a heads-up on the more technical aspects of the briefing now--hence, this package.
- The current MMIS process was based on several assumptions which, in hindsight, may not have been valid. These assumptions resulted in a somewhat self-limiting process which encouraged submission of simple, cheap "look out the window" experiments. Unfortunately, without substantive changes to the MMIS process, this proliferation of "direct view" earth observation experiments will most likely continue. This is really putting the cart before the horse, since it's unlikely we'll ever justify a manned military presence in space on the basis of earth observation. As an ancillary capability, direct view optics might be worth a small additional investment over the cost of some manned military platform or module. Fortunately, we now have some new ideas on what might justify the cost of such a platform. However, if we never make the argument successfully, the current earth observation efforts will have been wasted.
- Therefore, we propose altering the MMIS process as necessary to allow investigation of other more technically demanding uses of man-in-space. The potential MMIS applications we have thus far identified are listed in the attached table (See Atch 1). The most promising applications relate to data fusion within an on-orbit C³I node (See Atch 2 and paragraphs 5 and 6 of Atch 3). Our initial conversations with members of SAFSP, SDIO, STC, Aerospace Corp, and Rome Air Development Center support this conclusion. Further details about the manned C³I node will be forthcoming.

RECOMMENDATION

- FYI (Recommendations will be presented in our briefing).

Terry R. Luke
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Asst DCS/Plans

- 3 Atch
1. Chart (U)
2. Background Paper (U)
3. XPD Ltr, 25 Aug 88 (S)

(No Record of attachments.)

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